

granting permission will promote protection of grassland. Such entities must be a qualified organization under 16 U.S.C. § 3838q that the Secretary determines has the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to assume title ownership of the easement. Rental agreements will not be transferred.

(b) USDA has the right to conduct periodic inspections and enforce the easement and associated restoration agreement for any easements transferred pursuant to this section.

(c) The private organization, State, or other Federal agency must assume the costs incurred in administering and enforcing the easement, including the costs of restoration or rehabilitation of the land to the extent that such restoration or rehabilitation is above and beyond that required by the GRP conservation plan and restoration agreement. Any additional restoration must be consistent with the purposes of the easement.

(d) A private organization or State agency that seeks to hold title to a GRP easement must apply to the NRCS State Conservationist for approval. The State Conservationist shall consult with FSA State Executive Director prior to rendering its determination.

(e) For a private organization to be qualified to be an easement holder, the private organization must be organized as required by 28 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or be controlled by an organization described in section 28 U.S.C. § 509(a)(2). In addition, the private organization must provide evidence to USDA that it has:

(1) Relevant experience necessary to administer grassland and shrubland easements;

(2) A charter that describes the commitment of the private organization to conserving ranchland, agricultural land, or grassland for grazing and conservation purposes;

(3) The human and financial resources necessary, as determined by the Chief, NRCS, to effectuate the purposes of the charter; and

(4) Sufficient financial resources to carry out easement administrative and enforcement activities.

(f) In the event that the easement holder fails to enforce the terms of the easement, as determined in the discretion of the Secretary, the Secretary, his or her successors and assigns, shall have the right to enforce the terms of this easement through any and all authorities available under Federal or State law or, at the option of the Secretary, to have all right, title, or interest in this easement revert to the United States of America. Further, in the event the easement holder dissolves or attempts to terminate the easement, then all right, title, and interest shall revert to the United States of America.

(g) Should this easement be transferred pursuant to this section, all warranties and indemnifications provided for in this Deed shall continue to apply to the United States. Subsequent to the transfer of this easement, the easement holder shall be responsible for conservation planning and implementation and will adhere to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for maintaining the viability of grassland and other conservation values.

(h) Due to the Federal interest in the GRP easement, the easement interest cannot be condemned.

§ 1415.18 Appeals.

(a) Applicants or participants may appeal decisions regarding this program in accordance with part 7 CFR part 614, 11, and 780 of this Title.

(b) Before a person may seek judicial review of any action taken under this part, the person must exhaust all administrative appeal procedures set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 1415.19 Scheme or device.

(a) If it is determined by the Department that a participant has employed a scheme or device to defeat the purposes of this part, any part of any program payment otherwise due or paid such participant during the applicable period may be withheld or be required to be refunded with interest thereon, as determined appropriate by the Department.

(b) A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud, misrepresentation, depriving any other